

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1736

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 9288

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, EAIR, WG , TU, GW

SUBJECT: WEST BERLIN TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS

REF: ANKARA 9244

1. FRG ECONOMIC COUNSELOR DINGENS TOLD EMBASSY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR DECEMBER 19 THAT SITUATION WITH RESPOECT TO TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS FROM BERLIN IS MORE RELAXED AS RESULT OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TURKISH AND FRG OFFICIALS IN BONN AND IN ANKARA. GOT HAS AGREED WITH FRG OFFICIALS THAT ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF WEST BERLIN MUST BE PRESERVED. TO THIS END IT HAS AGREED THAT BALANCE SHOULD BE MAINTAINED BETWEEN TURKISH WORKER FLIGHTS FROM SCHOENFELD TO ISTANBUL AND TEGEL TO ISTANBUL. IN THIS CONNECTION GOT HAS AGREED TO REDUCE FREQUENCY OF SCHEDULED THY FLIGHTS FROM SCHOENFELD TO ISTANBUL
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FROM FOUR TO THREE WEEKLY. (GOT DID NOT REPEAT NOT

AGREE HOWEVER TO FRG PROPOSAL THAT THY USE ONLY MEDIUM SIZED AIRCRAFT ON THIS SERVICE-IN LIEU OF WIDE-BODIED DC-10 AIRCRAFT- FOR PURPOSE OF FURTHER REDUCING THY CAPACITY). GOT HAS ALSO AGREED TO CUT BACK THY CHARTER FLIGHTS ON THIS ROUTE EXCEPT DURING PEAK SEASONS OF SUMMER AND NEW YEAR PERIODS. DINGENS ALSO INDICATED THAT SPECIAL FARE ESTBLISHED BY GOT FOR WORKER FLIGHTS FROM ISTANBUL TO EAST BERLIN (WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH IATA COMMITMENTS) IS HIGHER THAN WORKER FARE TO POINTS IN WEST GERMANY. THIS IS CALCULATED TO INDUCE SOME TURKISH WORKERS TO RETURN FROM BERLIN TO ISTANBUL VIA WEST GERMANY.

2. DINGENS SAID FRG HAS CHOSEN TO SEEK SOLUTION TO BERLIN PROBLEM BY MEANS OF FRIENDLY PERSUASION. HE SAID THAT FRG HAS NOT THREATENED RETALIATION AGAINST THY EVEN THOUGH WEST BERLIN PRESS HAS SUGGESTED SUCH ACTION. (HE SAID FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD IN FACT ASKED FRG EMBASSY ANKARA IF IT HAD MENTIONED REPRISALS TO GOT AUTHORITIES. FRG EMBASSY ASSURED BONN THAT IT HAD NOT.) OTHER PRODUCTIVE COURSE OF ACTION THAT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IS FOR ALLIED CARRIERS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE THEIR SERVICES COMPETITIVE BY OFFERING CONVENIENT FLIGHTS AT MOST REASONABLE PRICE. A THIRD POSSIBILITY THAT MIGHT BE PROPOSED TO TURKISH AUTHORITIES WOULD BE TO OFFER THY LANDING RIGHTS AT HANOVER FOR CHARTER OPERATIONS TO ISTANBUL, SERVING TURKISH WORKERS FROM BERLIN. DINGENS SAID THIS IS NOT REPEAT NOT CONTEMPLATED AT PRESENT BUT MIGHT BE SUGGESTED AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE.

3. E/COM COUNSELOR ASKED DINGENS IF THY WAS OFFERING REDUCED AND DISCRIMINATORY FARE FOR ISTANBUL-ANKARA ROUND-TRIP CONNECTIONS FOR TURKISH WORKERS CARRIED BY THY. DINGENS SAID FRG AUTHORITIES HAD FIRST LEARNED ABOUT THIS FROM WEST BERLIN PRESS. HE BELIEVED THAT THIS ALLEGATION IS IN FACT TRUE. HIS IMPRESSION IS THAT THIS FARE IS IN FACT OFFERED NOT REPEAT NOT IN FORM OF SEPARATE ISTANBUL-ANKARA TICKETS BUT THROUGH CALCULATION OF SEPARATE FARE SEGMENTS ON ROUND-TRIP SCHOENFELD-ANKARA

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TICKETS. ALL PASSENGERS WITH SUCH TICKETS HOWEVER CHANGE FROM ONE THY AIRCRAFT TO ANOTHER AT ISTANBUL IN ANY EVENT. DINGENS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THIS IS MATTER THAT ALLIED CARRIERS SHOULD RAISE THROUGH IATA RATHER THAN BY MEANS

OF INTERVENTION OF RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.

4. IN SUMMARY, DINGENS SAID THAT FROM FRG POINT OF VIEW

AIR TRAFFIC SITUATION REGARDING WEST BERLIN SEEMS
SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN IT HAS IN PAST. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN
AT POSSIBILITY THAT GOT MIGHT CHANGE ITS MIND AT SOME
TIME IN THE FUTURE AND SUPPORT MORE AGGRESSIVE EFFORTS TO
EXPAND THY SERVICES TO BERLIN.
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